

## **Ways to Enhance Your Day of Prayer Experience**

The Day of Prayer is a blessed demonstration of the community shared by Baptist women across the world. There are two essential active ingredients to every Day of Prayer experience: praying and giving. Prayer is the lifeblood that courses through the veins of the believer in Christ. Through it, we receive hope, guidance, assurance and peace as we communicate with God. We are dependent upon it. As we unite with our Baptist sisters across the world, we are committing to upholding and supporting one another in prayer for we know that nothing is accomplished without it and great and mighty things come into being because of it. The offerings during the Day of Prayer are essential because they provide the much needed funds for the ministries and partnerships of the BWA Women's Department and our continental unions, including the Day of Prayer projects. When we share with our sisters, we are partnering with them by giving them the tools they need to make a difference for God's Kingdom in their own areas. As you promote and plan the Day of Prayer, please ensure that the two essential active ingredients permeate throughout your experience.

NABWU's tag line is "Together We are Stronger." The Day of Prayer is a perfect way to emphasize this statement. The Day of Prayer is for all Baptist women in your community, not just those who are a part of your organization. Invite them to discover how together we as Baptist women worldwide are stronger.

When planning your Day of Prayer, think about your event as "an experience". The word, "experience", throws open the doors to creativity, allowing you to think outside the box when planning and promoting the Day of Prayer.

Because of the diversity of women, consider offering a choice of different Day of Prayer events at various times throughout the year. This will allow more women to be involved in a variety of ways.

One of the ways you can reach women in a unique way and expand your community of women is through the "Prayer & Praise Vigil" on the BWA Women's Department Facebook Page. This is a 24 hour Day of Prayer event from Midnight on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> to Midnight on Monday November 7<sup>th</sup>. The Day of Prayer message is shared through prayer, music, devotions, testimonies, messages and photos from groups around the world all right online!

You can reach out to your community by asking women to take their laptops, tablets and phones to those who unable to leave their homes, or are in shelters, nursing homes, and hospitals. You can create prayer groups to expand your event to 24 hours by using Facebook and having groups gather in homes at different times for prayer before and after your event.

## **Community Prayer Walk**

Since this year's theme focuses on community, why not have a prayer walk around your community? A community prayer walk is a meaningful way to see your community through God's eyes. As you pause along your walk to pray for the various continental union requests in the prayer guide, you can also remember to pray for the needs within your own community. If you live in multi-cultural area, perhaps you can have prayer stops at places that reflect each of the 7 continental unions.

If inclement weather is a factor in your area, why not consider having an indoor prayer walk with prayer stations that reflect areas around your community. Or display a map of your community and place stickers on the community areas as you pray for them. Remember, a community is not only the area in which you live. Many of us are a part of several communities: school, work, family, church, and others. Include these communities in your prayers as you Arise and Shine.

Why not consider having a community prayer walk multiple times throughout the year? A community prayer walk can be done any time of year and is a great way to reuse the prayer guide and consistently remember the needs of our Baptist sisters across the world.

You may also want to offer a hands on mission's opportunity in your community as a result in conjunction with the prayer walk.

## **Sunrise/Sunset Experience**

Address the theme, "Arise, Shine!" by having a breakfast event or evening event (just before or after dark). Give each person a flashlight, battery candle, tea light, or glow stick that can be used during a processional or recessional. Take home the light as a reminder of the event.

Other items to enhance the experience can be star-shaped, lightbulbs or reflectors (Be reflectors of Christ's light).

## **Making the Most of the Prayer Guide**

### **Ways to Use the Prayer Guide:**

Prepare an atmosphere of prayer by first spending some time in adoration of God.

Together in Community, we shine brighter: Mark off an area on the floor in the shape of a cross. Give each woman a battery tea light that they can place in the cross after they are finished praying.

Alternate testimonies and prayers for individual continental unions, rather than one prayer time for all.

Write each prayer request on a post-it note, place them on globe or world map and have each woman take one.

Divide into groups to pray for one continental union. Chose one woman in that group to represent the continental union and lay hands on her while praying.

Incorporate various styles of prayer: sentence, longer prayers, silent, standing, kneeling, sitting. If possible, have prayers offered in the languages representing the various continental unions.

## **Use the prayer guide throughout the entire year:**

There are almost 50 prayer requests in the guide. Pray for one each week.

Create a prayer calendar using the requests.

Take a copy of the guide and visit an elderly woman who is no longer able to attend Day of Prayer events.

Include requests from the prayer guide in the regular prayer events at your church.

Start a new prayer group.

Contact the BWA WD international officers to receive updates. (Contact information found on page \_\_\_ of this program guide)

Find out who is your Continental Union prayer partner. (<http://bwawd.org/prayer-partnerships>)

Use the entire Day of Prayer program as a resource throughout the year. Remember to check the BWA WD website for extra resources. (<http://bwawd.org/additional-information>)

## **Suggestions for a One-Two Hour Day of Prayer Experience**

*(24 hour vigil and prayer stations ideas can be found in Creatively Presenting Your Day of Prayer Experience)*

Welcome – NABWU President’s Greetings

Hymn

Prayer of Adoration to God

Testimony

Prayers for 2 Continental Unions

Testimony

Prayers for 2 Continental Unions

Testimony

Prayers for 2 Continental Unions

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

Bible study

Prayers for 1 Continental Union and BWA WD Exec. Board

Highlighting Offering (including DOP projects)

Offering

“Call to Action in Our Communities” reading

“Arise, shine” theme song

Benediction